

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 AF-10 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 038235

R 051049Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 769

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9826

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, PINT, IS

SUBJECT : CONTROVERSY OVER GOI'S ROLE IN OCT. 22 CEASEFIRE

REF: TEL AVIV 9521

1. LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP, ALREADY BUFFETTED BY CRITICISM FOR ITS HANDLING OF WAR (REFTEL) AND JUST HAVING QUELLED NASCENT PARTY REBELLION AT LEAST WEEKS CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, IS NOW FACING NEW DIFFICULTIES IN WAKE OF CONFLICTING STORIES REGARDING GOI ROLE IN OCT. 22 CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. MRS MEIR AND EBAN ARE REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD CABINET AND ALSO KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE AT THE TIME THAT GOI KNEW NOTHING ABOUT US-USSR-DRAFTED CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION UNTIL LATE IN EVENING OCT. 21. NOW, HOWEVER, IT HAS SURFACED THAT MEMBERS OF AMERICAN JEWISH PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE WHO WERE IN ISRAEL LAST WEEK TOLD HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT GOLAN AND OTHERS THAT DINITZ HAD TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD BEEN CONSULTED BY AMERICANS AND HAD EVEN HELPED DRAFT OCT. 22 CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION.

2. GOLAN IN DEC. 4 ARTICLE SPECULATED THAT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN HIGH LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND WASHINGTON TO KEEP GOI ROLE IN CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT SECRET. GOLAN CONCLUDED THAT ISRAEL CANNOT GO TO PEACE CONFERENCE WITH SUSPICION THAT SOME OF ITS TOP LEADERSHIP HAD MISLED PUBLIC AND EVEN ITW OWN GOVERN-
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MENT ON MOST VITAL ISSUES OF WAR AND PEACE.

3. LIKUD OPPOSITION HAS ALREADY SEIZED ON CONFLICTING VERSIONS IN ORDER TO QUESTION CREDIBILITY OF TOP LEADERSHIP BRIEFINGS AND OFFICIAL GOI STATEMENTS. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY OUR LABOR PARTY SOURCES THIS WEEK THAT LABOR ELECTORAL TACTIC IN TRYING TO REGAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT WILL BE TO STRESS LIKUD'S OPPOSITION TO OCTOBER 2 CEASEFIRE AND ALSO OPPOSITION LEADER BEGIN'S CRITICISM OF SECRETARY KISSINGER IN NOV. 13 KNESSETT SPEECH (TEL AVIV 9224). CONFLICTING VERSIONS OF HOW OCT. 22 CEASEFIRE WAS ARRIVED AT, AND WHAT ISRAELI ROLE WAS IN ITS FORMULATION, CERTAINLY WILL NOT HELP LABOR PARTY.

KEATING

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Message Attributes

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